

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification on page 5, at line 11, as follows:

FIG. 7 ~~FIG.'s 7A and 7B show~~ shows a flow diagram of a second embodiment according to the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph of the specification on page 23, lines 23-35, as follows:

Fig.'s 7A and 7B show ~~FIG. 7 shows~~ another embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, a tar sand feed is converted into a synthetic crude oil. Run of mine tar sand from trucks is dumped into receiving, screening, and sizing equipment 702 for classifying tar sand at ambient temperature. The tar sand comprises bitumen and sand. The tar sand is crushed into relatively large fluidizable pieces that are capable of passing through a one inch mesh, or that are about one inch or less in size. In this embodiment, crushing the tar sand into fines or pieces less than sand size is preferably avoided to facilitate fines removal from the product stream. Limiting the amount of crushing can also reduce heat generation that can adversely affect tar sand processing. Limiting crushing can also help to preserve a water film that surrounds tar sand pieces. Tar sand pieces typically comprise an agglomeration of sand particles, each sand particle surrounded by a film of water and an outer layer of bitumen. On contacting a hot fluidizing flow of hydrogen during later reaction steps, the water film can rapidly evaporate assisting the tar sand pieces to disintegrate into a finely fluidized dispersion of sand particles and bitumen in hydrogen.